



One cannot speak about the art of easel portraits without referring to women's faces. It is well known that the woman, her physical appearance and the inner world of her being have been permanent subjects for fine artists. Naturally, the history of women's portraits is the same as the history of painting, sculpture and graphics, recording the same sorrows, changes of emotion and form, aesthetic programmes, experiments, adaptations, syntheses, failures and renewals. Thus, in capturing women's physiognomy, painters went from rendering the outward traits, thus trying to define a certain social status, to the minute description of their physical and then spiritual attributes, in an attempt to provide the image of a personality, a certain human type, freed from the anonymity to which the social category doomed it. It is superfluous to mention that once such an outlook was acquired, the aesthetic emotion gained more confidence and clarity, the nature of the feminine face and soul proving to be complex, mysterious, laden, moiling, hard to unravel.

Since its beginnings, Romanian fine art too has covered the winding, if relevant, road. That is why a work with this topic in portrait or composition, matrilines or nudes, implicitly reflects historical or aesthetic mutations, thus making dating easy. The biographies reproduced on this page make it rather difficult to speak, in detail, about the evolution of the theme in Romanian painting. Still, one can note the pure academicism of Gheorghe Mădărasu (1920-1940), the original blend of academicist manner and Romanianism with Theodor Aman (1831-1891); Nicolae Gribocescu's "corrupted" pleinairism (1836-1897); Ion Andreescu's (1859-1927) personalist formalism in sober colours and the construction of forms; Nicolae Vermont's (1899-1932) realistic-dramatic outlook; Arthur Verona's (1899-1940) idealizing manner; Ceclia Coltescu-Stork's (1870-1909) decorative-vigorous point of view; Stefan Luchian's (1892-1910) dramatic refinement; Nicolae Tonulescu's (1890-1940) lyrical exultation; Francisc Sireu's (1877-1902) limpid calligraphy; Stefan Dimitrescu's (1885-1923) delicate meditation; Camil Ressu's (1890-1959) expressive force; Jean Al. Siciu's (1900-1920) vibrating light; Rodica Manu's (1890-1960) Postimpressionism; Aurel Băgea's (1897-1955) lapidary touch; Ion Muculescu's (b. 1900) fresco-like colours; Cornea Baba's (b. 1900) psychological depth; Gheorghe Barbu's (b. 1920) constructive rigour; Ion Focșă's (b. 1924) compositional gravity; Sever Laurențiu's (b. 1931) metaphorical fantasy; Vasile Dabov's (b. 1914) suggestive authenticity; Petre Abruțan's (1907-1950) vital folk resources; Ligia Macovei's (b. 1910) circumstantial freshness...

GRIGORE GRANCEA



On this page: "Portrait of a Young Girl" by Nicolae (top, left); "The Woodman's Little Daughter" by Nicolae (top, center); "Woman Admiring an Easel Painting" by Aman (top, right); "The Republic's Spring" by Aman (center, left); "The Republic's Spring" by Aman (center, right); "Nameless Star" by Gheorghe Barbu (bottom, left); "Child" by George Stănescu (bottom, center); "Madonne" by M.H. Maxy (bottom, right).

ROMANIAN NEWS

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PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP  
ITINERARY IN AFRICA

THE OFFICIAL FRIENDLY VISITS OF PRESIDENT NICOLAE CEAUȘESCU  
AND ELENA CEAUȘESCU TO GHANA AND LIBERIA

Nicolae Ceaușescu, President of Romania, and Elena Ceaușescu paid an official goodwill visit to the Republic of Ghana, at the invitation of the Chairman of the Provisional National Defence Council of the Republic of Ghana, Ff-Lt. Jerry John Rawlings, over March 7-9, 1988.

The two heads of state expressed satisfaction at the continual strengthening of the links between Romania and Ghana and decided to boost these links in all domains of mutual interest.

The leaders of the two states decided to work to boost trade exchanges and develop economic cooperation in industry, agriculture, mining, petroleum and other sectors of mutual interest.

In connection with the international political and economic situation, the leaders of the two states saw with satisfaction the closeness of their viewpoints on major issues facing mankind.

The two state leaders declared for a stop to the arms race, absolute passage to disarmament, nuclear, civil and foreign, peaceful settlement of international conflicts, securing each nation's and people's foremost right to solve their problems to freedom and independence.

The leaders of the two countries welcomed the signing of the treaty between the Soviet Union and the United States of America on removing medium and shorter range missiles. Romania and Ghana believe that resulting action should be taken to reach new accords for a 50 per cent cut in strategic nuclear weapons, to stop nuclear tests, spare militarization, to completely scrap nuclear arms and adopt measures to give

(cont. on p. 3)



Over March 9-11, 1988, Romania's President, Nicolae Ceaușescu, together with Elena Ceaușescu, paid an official friendly visit to Liberia, at the invitation of President Samuel Kanyon Doe.

On this occasion, in Monrovia, official talks between President Nicolae Ceaușescu, Elena Ceaușescu and President Samuel Kanyon Doe were held.

The President of the Republic of Liberia expressed satisfaction at the new summit dialogue, at the possibility to continue the talks started in Bucharest, stressing their decisive role in expanding and deepening the economic, technological, scientific and other kinds of collaboration between Romania and Liberia.

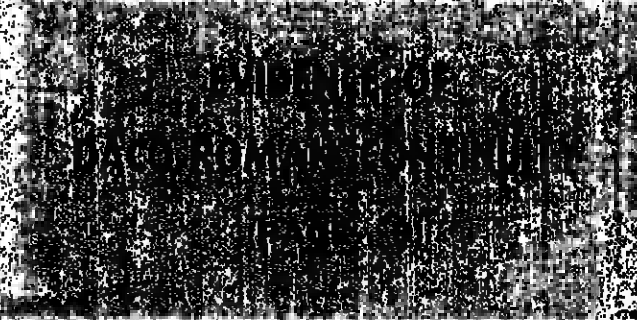
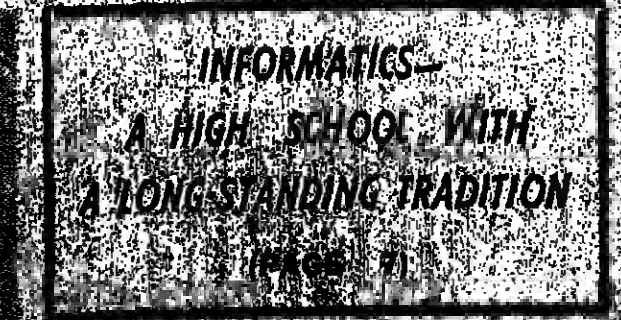
In that frame, they analyzed the stage and prospects of the Romanian-Liberian collaboration on multiple planes.

The two countries' determination was reaffirmed to intensify their economic relations, to develop wide collaboration based on long-term accords and programs, meant to ensure stability, continuity, dynamism and wide prospects to the expansion of mutually advantageous Romanian-Liberian exchange.

The two heads of state analyzed problems related to the development of industry and agriculture, of other economic sectors, with the participation of Romanian enterprises, reaching joint conclusions upon which the substance of the two delegations are to conduct relevant cooperation accords as soon as possible.

It was stressed that the expansion and consolidation of the relations between the two countries on a political, economic, technological, scientific and cultural

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## MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE POLITICAL COMMITTEE

During its March 5 meeting, held under the chairmanship of R.C.P. General Secretary Nicolae Ceaușescu, the Executive Political Committee of the CC of the RCP examined a report on the activity of the Romanian delegation to the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Balkan countries, held in Belgrade over February 21-26, 1988.

The Executive Political Committee approved of the activity of the Romanian delegation that, in keeping with their mandate, referred during the meeting to President Nicolae Ceaușescu's outlook, proposals and initiatives concerning the broad development of Romania's relations with the Balkan states, the expansion of its links with the bi- and multilateral cooperation among them, the establishment of a lasting climate of understanding and broad collaboration, the transformation of the Balkans into a zone of peace and cooperation, free of nuclear and chemical weapons and of foreign military bases and troops.

The Executive Political Committee considered that the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Balkan states was an event of special importance which proved that it was possible and necessary to take further action for the development of new-type relations among all the countries in the Balkans to provide for confidence- and security-building and the consolidation of peace and collaboration in that part of the world. In that respect, emphasis was placed on

Romania's and Greece's proposals concerning the calling of a Balkan summit in Bucharest, which was shown to be highly topical, a prerequisite for the establishment of a complex programme for the expansion of economic, technical, scientific, cultural and other collaboration, as part of the development of cooperation in Europe and throughout the world. It is Romania's outlook that that meeting would be decisive for the development of links of friendship, multilateral collaboration and understanding among all the countries and peoples in the area, would strongly encourage the actions aimed at turning the Balkans into a zone of peace and cooperation, would go down as a significant positive event in the life of our continent, in the fight for detente, disarmament, security and broad international collaboration.

The Executive Political Committee reiterated the resolve of the RCP and of the Romanian state to further militate for the promotion of a spirit of cooperation and dialogue among the Balkan states, for new ways and means to boost collaboration in the most diverse planes, for the strengthening of peace and good neighbourliness, for confidence among all the countries in the Balkans on the basis of the principles of full equality of rights, respect for national independence and sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs and mutual advantage, each nation's right to

develop freely, according to its own will and aspirations. To this end, a number of proposals were approved concerning the broad development of Romania's relations with the Balkan countries and, more particularly, the expansion of economic, technical, scientific and other collaboration, for the establishment of a durable climate of security, understanding and peace in the Balkans, in Europe and all over the world.

The Executive Political Committee of the CC of the RCP analyzed the way in which the plan on February was fulfilled. In this framework, the Party General Secretary underlined that the achievement scored in February and in the first two months of the year, in general, although are superior to those of the same period last year, are not yet on a par with the plan provisions, with the existing possibilities. The request was made that all measures should be taken for the liquidation of all arrears as soon as possible and for the fulfilment, in the best conditions, of the plan for March, especially of exports, investments of all economic indicators. At the same time, it was requested that the elaboration and preparation of the plan for April be ensured in advance. Referring to agriculture, attention was drawn to the fact that, at the same time with the preparation and proper course of spring works, most firm action must be taken for the fulfillment of the other tasks incumbent on this domain.

## THE DIALECTICS OF EFFICIENCY

The fundamental trait of the ongoing five-year plan period in Romania is the enhancement of the qualitative sides of the productive process, the more marked growth of economic efficiency and the transition to a intensive-type enlarged reproduction. One is similar at establishing new correlations between the factors of economic growth, in fact, at striking a new balance in the economy.

The streamlining of qualitative factors of the course towards an intensive-type reproduction must lead to a 60.4 per cent increase in the national income in 1990, compared to the previous quinquennium, 88 per cent of this increase being accounted for by the growth of social labour productivity. The reduction to 85 per cent of the share of material spending in the social product, the creation of products 93 per cent of which will meet world standards — some of them, 2-5 per cent exceeding those standards — the striking of an optimum ratio between industry and agriculture, the implementation of the goals of all arrears as soon as possible and for the fulfilment, in the best conditions, of the plan for March, especially of exports, investments of all economic indicators. At the same time, it was requested that the elaboration and preparation of the plan for April be ensured in advance. Referring to agriculture, attention was drawn to the fact that, at the same time with the preparation and proper course of spring works, most firm action must be taken for the fulfillment of the other tasks incumbent on this domain.

The process of streamlining the qualitative sides of economic growth is based on the achievement of the past quinquennium which marked a powerful development of the branches that ensure the material and technical support of productive activities in the economy. Over the 1985-1989 interval, the highest growth rates were recorded by the machine building and metal working industry, as well as

the chemical industry, both outpacing the dynamics of industrial production as a whole. In 1985, four basic industrial branches — machine building, electricity, power generation and metallurgy — supplied between themselves 53.4 per cent of the country's industrial output.

During the current quinquennium, the processing industries will undergo far-reaching qualitative changes, rapidly incorporating advanced technologies. The fast pace of production will make possible the putting into production of some 3,000 new products annually. Similar processes will take place in the other industrial branches and subbranches too. As concerns agriculture, the mechanization process is expected to be roughly completed by the end of the current five-year plan period, both in plant growing and in animal breeding. In 1990 agriculture will have 1,000 tractors, which will mean one tractor for some 55 ha of arable land on the average over the country.

On the basis of the programme of organization and modernization of production processes, labour productivity is envisaged to double until 1990, consistently with the target of material spending for 1,000 in worth of marketable goods by up to 30 per cent in the national industry. Moreover, the utilization index of raw materials and energy, calculated in terms of marketable production, will rise by 30-35 per cent in 1990 against 1985.

ION COVACI

## PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP ITINERARY IN AFRICA PRESIDENT NICOLAE CEAUȘESCU AND ELENA CEAUȘESCU'S OFFICIAL FRIENDLY VISITS TO LIBERIA AND GHANA

(cont. from p. 1)

plane — based on fully equal rights, observance of national independence and sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs and mutual advantage — fully accord with the aspirations of the Romanian and Liberian peoples, serve their economic and social progress, the cause of international peace and understanding.

In the addresses made at the dinner offered in honour of the high official guests, President Nicolae Ceaușescu and President Samuel Kanyon Doe stressed the outstanding significance of the new summit talks, highlighting Romania's and Liberia's wish to strengthen and expand their cooperation both bilaterally and in the international life.

Within a ceremony which took place in Monrovia, President Nicolae Ceaușescu and Academician Elena Ceaușescu were awarded the Order of the Star of Liberia for their role in the development of the relations between the two countries.

In the speech delivered on this occasion, President Nicolae Ceaușescu regarded the awarding of this title as a symbol of the collaboration and friendship between Romania and Liberia, among the people working in the field of education, science and culture in the two countries. President Nicolae Ceaușescu pointed out that during the talks he had had with the President of Liberia, with other members of the government of the host country, the joint conclusion was reached that there are wide possibilities for the peoples of the two countries to achieve a large collaboration and cooperation in production in very important fields. It was established that, starting this year, each a mutually advantageous collaboration serving both Romania's and Liberia's economic-social development should be organized which should constitute an example of relations between two countries.

(cont. from p. 1)

up chemical and other mass destruction weapons. The two countries also maintain that "conventional arms, troops and military spending should be cut radically."

The joint communiqué underscores the African peoples' settlements in their struggle

for national freedom and independence, for socio-economic development, broader cooperation among them and stronger unity in their political unions in Africa and the world at large and expresses concern over the continued foreign interference in African countries' home affairs and intensification of aggressive acts against African peoples.

Reiterating their support for the struggle of people in southern Africa to defend national sovereignty and independence, their own path to economic and social development, Romania and Ghana firmly condemned South Africa's aggressive actions against free and independent front-line countries and

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the UN Security Council's members included. At the same time, an appeal was made to immediately stop all reprisals in the Arab territories occupied by Israel.

While voicing their concern over the dangerous escalation of events in the Gulf, the two heads of state called for the definitive halt of all attacks and the observance of free navigation in that maritime region, the undelayed end of the hostilities between Iran and Iraq and the settlement of the issues between them peacefully, through negotiation, in keeping with resolution 598 of the UN Security Council.

The calling of an international conference at the UN, to be attended, on an equal footing, by both developing and developed countries, in order to find mutually acceptable solutions to the problems of economic and social development, including the problem of the foreign debt and of the increasingly high interest rates that are an ever heavier burden on the developing countries' shoulders.

The leaders of the two states reiterated their attachment to the principles of the UN Charter and their shared view that the fundamental principle of international relations is the sovereignty of states. They also expressed their conviction that the only way to ensure peace and stability in the world is through the strengthening of the United Nations and the promotion of international cooperation and solidarity among all peoples.



national organizations and forces included. The conferring of prestigious titles upon the distinguished Romanian guests by Liberia University is the proof of its decision to promote international understanding, to approach the complex problems of the contemporary age.

The conferring of these high titles — said Liberia's President Samuel Kanyon Doe — represents a special contribution to the cause of peace, to increasing collaboration between Liberia and Romania in the economic, cultural, social, technical, educational and other domains of activity. In this context, President Samuel Kanyon Doe stressed with satisfaction

the level of cooperation between the governments of the two countries in preparing the summit talks and expressed his conviction that such programmes, and other forms of international cooperation, will be intensified, in order to deepen understanding between the Liberian and Romanian peoples.

## ROMANIA IN THE WORLD • ROMANIA IN THE WORLD

### FRUITFUL COOPERATION

As part of the foreign trade relations promoted by Romania with nearly 180 countries on all continents, the central place is taken by the collaboration and cooperation in production with the socialist countries. Currently, these countries hold more than 60 per cent of the overall volume of the Romanian foreign trade; the mutual exchanges of material goods have been boosted considerably, at a higher pace than that recorded by Romania's economic relations as a whole.

Among these countries, the Soviet Union stands out as Romania's prime commercial partner (with a share of more than one fifth of its overall trade ties), as regards both exports and imports.

The commercial exchanges with People's China too have been expanded. In the last five-year plan period (1981-1985), thanks to the high growth rate of mutual goods deliveries, People's China has come to rank among Romania's major clients (the eighth place in the overall trade volume).

The economic collaboration with all the other socialist countries, both as regards goods exchanges and the expansion of cooperation and specialization in production, has seen an upward course. Special importance goes to the building through joint efforts of large-scale economic projects. Thus, the cooperation with the Soviet Union is aimed at developing production units in the fields of iron and steel, machine engineering, chemistry and petrochemistry, pulp and sugar. Also built through concerted efforts was the hydro-technical complex of Simona-Costel (on the Prut river), currently under way in numerous other joint ventures in various fields.

It is further to harness the energy of the great European river which unites the two neighbour countries. This Romanian-Bulgarian joint venture adds to the other projects, already completed or now under way, such as the Heavy-Duty Machine and Equipment Works of Glurgin and Ruse, the Dunărea joint Romanian-Bulgarian society, etc.

Romania also takes part in the joint capitalization of important raw material and energy deposits, being engaged in numerous actions of industrial cooperation with People's China, East Germany, the DPR of Korea. Actions of cooperation and specialization have been expanded of mainly with the CMEA member countries. A large number of Romanian industrial enterprises are taking part in the implementation of over 50 multilateral conventions of specialization and cooperation in turning out important products of the machine engineering industry, chemistry and petrochemistry.



In future too, Romania will use for expanding its economic ties with the neighbour socialist countries, with the CMEA member countries, with all socialist countries. In Romania's view, the socialist countries must further focus on expanding and diversifying their economic collaboration, on settling with concerted forces the questions posed by the advance in building the new system. To this end Romania is determined to contribute with all forces to improving the cooperation and specialization with the socialist countries in order to meet to a higher extent the needs for energy and raw materials, for machines, equipment and other products of these countries' economies.

T. NITESCU

### STEEL PRODUCTS FOR EXPORT

There is a firm international demand for sheet of all kinds, especially for thick and medium sheet. The Galati Iron and Steel Works yearly supplies for export large amounts of cold or hot rolled plate, of all sizes and qualities, starting with carbon steel and ending with superior alloy and stainless steel.

The steel production of Galati, is turned out in keeping with all international norms (BS, DIN, JIS, ASTM, etc.) and is not surprised that most orders for thick, medium and thin sheet come from the most developed countries: West Germany, Britain, Japan, the United States, etc.

The cold rolled thick and me-

dium steel is delivered to cold or leaves, its quality is guaranteed by ship registers in its country. The most popular shipbuilding firms in Britain, West Germany, France, Italy, Japan are business partners of GALATIEXPORTIMPORT.

Thanks to the high-tech equipment it boasts, the Galati Iron and Steel Works turns out, upon request, any kind of rolled plate, irrespective of quality environment or aggressivity.

Thus, it delivers general-purpose steel hot-rolled sheet, strips for machine building, cold-rolled steel sheet and strip for welded constructions, for construction resistant to atmospheric corrosion, sheet and strip for shipbuilding, for pressure vessels, for power production, for secured boilers and containers, sheet and strip for longways and other small-range boilers, parts for mining equipment, motor vehicle rims, welded pipes, etc.

The works also turns out rolled sheet and strip for hot parts, for curving, for home etc.

Besides thick and medium cold-rolled sheets of all sizes and qualities, the Galati Iron and Steel Works has been producing, since 1968, a wide range of cold-rolled and hot-rolled sheet and strip, of all sizes and qualities, for the most diverse needs of the industry and construction.

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## THE CLOWN'S CONDITION

The show The Clowns, staged by Mihai Mălăeș, director and actor, at the National Theatre in Bucharest, is the first of a series devoted to the art of clowns. It has the value of



an initiation level where we are invited to discover the charm of a world to which children again, to play along with it.

The next stagings will reach deeper waters, and have as source of inspiration Gogol's Buffon School and Gogol's The Overcoat, texts which will dramatically structure the events.

In this first stage, Mihai Mălăeș's success is obvious. His script restitutes a universe, serving of the same time the performers' expression means. The ensemble functions harmoniously. The empty stage is populated by a minimum of indicatives properly humbly commencing upon the clown's condition, wonderfully conceived by Nicolas Stancu, senior student at "N. Grigorescu" Fine Arts Institute — the scenography section. The

atmosphere of the performance is completed by Florin Ionescu's musical selection, dynamizing the action and creating tension.

The group of actors functions homogeneously. For the

act excellently evolves in the role of the White Clown. The ambiguity of the hero's emotional states, his dual nature, a combination of weakness and cruelty are expressed suggestively. Audio Călugăreanu, the role of Dario, is brilliant. She spontaneously talks to the public, sings in Nona Alifan's music, has a catchy joy and humor. The master of ceremonies of this lyrical invention in the clown's world is Mihai Mălăeș, in a triple position as performer, actor, and director. His hero, having a famous name, Freilind, is a good of the stage bringing along — in his gestures, eyes, on his face — a fragrant conveying — mystery to the show. The actor also successfully asserts his exceptional mimic qualities, improved at Jacques Leon's famous school. We remarked the actor's exceptional force of expression at the moment when his body receives the rigidity of the puppet in order to win the love of his only admirer — a doll.



In full consensus with its impetuous urban development (especially the new and super-civilized), Satu Mare, a north-western municipality of Romania, too a rich cultural and artistic life. For instance, the North Theatre enjoys high appreciation among the town's lovers thanks to the repertoire staged there. Both autoch-

thonous and world plays are well represented through the efforts of a team of stage directors, scene painters and actors of high level and devotion to the art of art. A new play, a pseudo-comedy entitled Crimele Agostei Christei (Agostei Christei's Murders) by young playwright Radu Eftimovici, has recently been staged in the theatre.

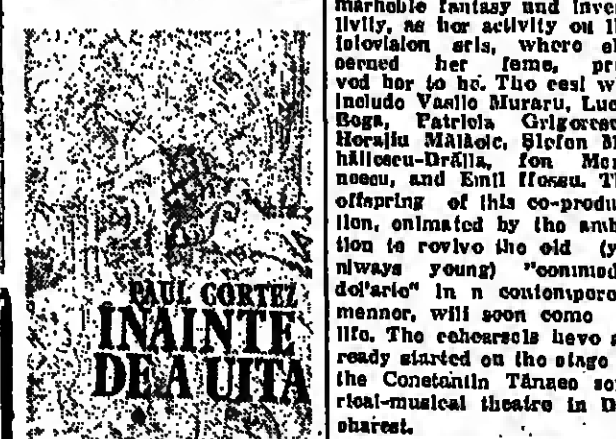
## READING SHOW

The Tenth (Theatrical) monthly magazine has a special event meant to be the Romanian theatrical phenomenon. The names of the events are "The Meeting at the Tenth Review," "The Young Artists' Studio," the exhibition of line and photographic art "Inspired by the stage world," and "The Drama Workshop." Part of the review's program of celebrating a cultural drama, of discussing and assessing the talents, the workshop is headed by literary critics and historians, journalists, directors, playwrights and, naturally, readers and spectators.

debating texts composed by different stages of artistic plays are presented in the form of a reading show, as seasonal events. The first meeting of the workshop is held in the foyer of the Theatre in Bucharest. The subject of the debate is the debut of the Romanian Decadentism (the Romanian Decadentism), initiated by the ambition to revive the old (yet always young) "commedia dell'arte" in a contemporary manner, will soon come to life. The rehearsal have already started on the stage of the Constantin Tănase theatrical-musical theatre in Bucharest.

## TELEX • TELEX • TELEX

**MUSICAL LETTER**  
AT BIRLIAN, Soudur, composer Tiberiu Olăh, whose most recent creation, the 2nd Symphony, was recently recorded by the Symphony Orchestra of the Romanian Radiotelevision.



conducted by Horia Andreanu. The first hearing is to be staged soon, on the composer's 60th birthday. The text of the letter: Concerto dello coppe. Addresse: Horia Andreanu. Quartet, which is to perform it as a world premiere as part of the Berliner Festwochen autumn events in West Berlin. Currently on the composer's work table is a wind quintet devoted to the Concerto ensemble of Bucharest.

**ARLECHINO REVI-VIVUS.** Not to the Golden or Gozi city, however, nor to that of the late Paolo Rossi (a guest of Bucharest a few years ago, with his Piccolo Teatro), but as a musical. Writer Paul Cortez (whose very young, slightly lyrical and somewhat humorous comedy, "Arlecchino Revi-Vivus," was staged in Bucharest a few years ago) was quickly sold out, together with actor

## EVIDENCE OF DACO-ROMAN CONTINUITY

Nearly ten years ago, large-scale, systematic archaeological excavations started at Medgrad, Sălaj county, on the territory of the major Daco-Roman center of Porolissum — the corner stone of Dacia's defense and the northernmost outpost of North-Danubian Romanity — which have produced remarkable results. Dr. Nicolae Gudea, from the Cluj-Napoca Institute of History and Archaeology, whom I interviewed for this paper, has composed these

results with those of previous archaeological researches conducted until 1977, with all the finds made at Porolissum, with the evidence in various museums and private collections, so that today we are beginning to have a clear picture of what Porolissum meant for the history of the Romanians, for the progress of the Roman people's formation as a Roman people.

**QUESTION:** When did Roman rule end at Porolissum, when did the official life of the capital of the northern province of Dacia Porolissensis come to an end?

**ANSWER:** First of all I must point out that Roman rule of Porolissum was clearly attested until 270 by incontestable archaeological, numismatic evidence. The fortification — the large castrum on Pomet hill — functioned until 270, as proved by the fact that material datable until that year or even to that year were found in layers; inscriptions dated 250-280 were carved in the repaired walls of

cells unearthed in the late barbarian world in the northwest of Iulius Dacia. Vessels for everyday use continued to be manufactured in great numbers. The perfectly why one can date to the 1st century the presence on a local vase of the inscription SIA FELIX VTERE FELIX (the Cluj-Napoca History Museum) or of Christ's monogram on another vessel, recently discovered by the specialists of the History and Art Museum in Zalău. Cluj-Napoca also continued to be made, whose absence can be traced to the late 4th and even early 5th centuries. Porolissum maintained its



Porolissum, the Roman castrum on the Pomet hill. PORTA PRAETORIA reconstructed

the castrum; there was an uninterrupted series of coins on the territory of the Roman city and in the castrum until Aurelianus' reign; there is no sign of an interruption of the habitation of the city either.

**QUESTION:** What and how many are the proofs of the continuity of the Romanized indigenous population's habitation after the withdrawal of the Roman authorities, and what is their value?

**ANSWER:** The proofs of this continuity discovered at Porolissum are diverse: archaeological, epigraphic and numismatic. From a chronological point of view they may be divided in two large groups: a group from the 1st century A.D. 270-400 — better defined, more numerous, typically late Roman — and another group dating from between 450-500, fewer but more important precisely because they refer to the period when the process of formation of the Romanian people and language was in full progress. That was in fact the period when the formation of the neo-Latin language — Latin, French, Spanish — was also under way in other parts of the former Roman Empire.

**QUESTION:** Can you specify what these proofs are and what their intrinsic historical value is?

**ANSWER:** I shall start with the evidence of Roman. Ippo economic life. On the basis of the monetary circulation continued in the zone until the end of the 4th century. A short interpretation: some have occurred under the reign of Diocletian, but the number of coins grows and continues in the 5th century. Besides the pattern workshops which produced decorated vessels known today as Porolissum ware, the pottery continued to operate in the 5th century. Among other things, a lot of this kind of which symbols and a certain inscription were carved in the 5th century. A large number of such vessels

strong links with the Roman Empire. That was where lay Roman bronze coins and a number of objects typical of late Roman material culture came to Porolissum from. These extremely delicate items were placed in the late Roman Empire's official policy towards the territories of former Dacia and the reconquest of large regions (Gilech, Bona) from former Dacia.

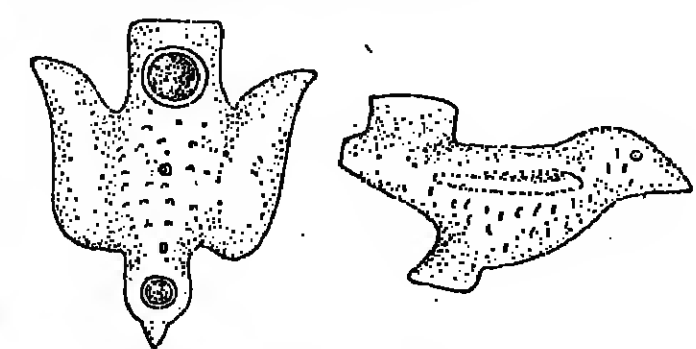
**QUESTION:** As far as I know there are plenty of proofs of late Roman social life. Could you exemplify a few, briefly highlighting their significance?

**ANSWER:** I should mention

VOT(um) P(ostul) and the symbols date back to the fourth century A.D. Another vessel, recently discovered by D. Tamba and Al. Mălăeș from the Museum of Zalău, carries the name of Jesus Christ engraved on its bottom. In this context the inscription VTERE FELIX found on the afore mentioned vessel may have a Christian character. Against this background of manifestation of the Christian community of Porolissum in western, Latin forms, the hypothesis of Al. Mălăeș (the Museum of Zalău) that a construction allied in the city area covered with sanctuaries was remade in the fourth

**QUESTION:** What happened during the great migrations and what was the fate of the Christian community after that?

**ANSWER:** We did not know for sure what happened at Porolissum during the great migrations and Hunnic invasions of the 5th century A.D. There are no traces. However, a few luxury golden objects uncovered by chance suggest the existence of a Hunnic grave. The Germanic and Hunnic mi-

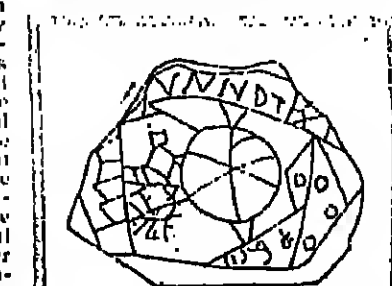


Bronze Christian dove-like rushlight discovered at Porolissum (the 6th century A.D.)

graders of the fifth century left no traces or, to be more specific, their traces have not been discovered yet. Instead, there are archaeological proofs concerning the Daco-Romans who survived the period of the great migrations. They are fewer in number but this does not mean they are less important. Social organization in Christian times was the factor which kept up the torch of human origin, especially thanks to the permanent and intense relationships with the Church of the Byzantine Empire. All archaeological proofs of that period (A.D. 450-600) have a Christian Byzantine character. Thus, mention should be made of the cross-shaped lead pendant (the

century A.D. and used as a Christian basilica is perfectly acceptable. **QUESTION:** In the light of the proofs you have presented can you formulate observations with a generalizing character?

**ANSWER:** There is no doubt this is a case of continuity in the territory of the old Daco-Roman city of Porolissum. The population which lived here preserved its Roman practices, currently used by the Roman world to which it belonged. It continued to live in the same place, it continued the economic, social and cultural life in Latin, being organized under the form of a Christian community. Only the Daco-Romans, the old population which remained in this territory could have continued all this. Only they could have carried on their own cultural culture, only they could have participated in a community based on Christianity. They could have spoken Latin and read in Latin. And only they could have organized themselves in social forms specific to the Roman Empire, in the Roman Empire. All archaeological proofs of that period (A.D. 450-600) have a Christian Byzantine character. Thus, mention should be made of the cross-shaped lead pendant (the



Vessel bottom of Porolissum with Christian inscriptions and symbols (the 5th century A.D.)

fifth century A.D.) a dove-like rushlight usually placed above the altar in a basilica (the sixth century A.D.), also a pawn-like bronze rushlight, the clay statue of a duck symbolizing the awakening (both dating back in the sixth century A.D.). All of them are Christian Byzantine in nature and aesthetics, one establishing their true place of origin. Their presence here suggests not only the existence of a Christian community but also the existence of a basilica, allowing for speculations about its social and religious life with the Byzantine Empire. These relationships appear even more intense now when we add, to the prior findings, a clay recipient (amphora) representing St. Menas, a vessel in which holy oil for Christians was used to be brought from the Empire. The piece has recently been identified by Dr. Doina Bădescu from the Museum of Timisoara. The conclusion can thus be drawn that the Daco-Roman Christian community of Porolissum survived the Germanic and Hunnic invasions and continued the sixth century, in full vigour, when the manifestations were again clear and unmistakable. The presence of certain Byzantine religious objects manufactured either in north-Africa workshops or in Egyptian ovens constitutes a natural phenomenon similar with what was happening in the northern European province of the former Roman Empire, where objects of the same north-African origin are quite frequent.

We have isolated here only one Porolissum where I have been quoted remarks and now I am making suggestions together with my colleagues from the Institute of History and Archaeology in Cluj-Napoca, from the Museum of History and Art in Zalău, and from the Cluj-Napoca History Museum. We should not be surprised if these data suggest the effect of a few data concerning the Daco-Roman continuity after 476. All in all, they are a first step towards the life, which, with the passage of time, will be more and more precise.

Interviewed by NICOLAE VASILE

## ROMANIAN CULTURE ABROAD

**ITALY.** Elena Fortu's recent one-man show of fine art staged at Palazzo Strozzi, reveals to the beauty-lovers of the Peninsula the personality of a complex artist. A painter and black-and-white artist of vocation who has reached her full creative maturity, Elena Fortu proved equally talented in the field of cinema, writing — for theatre, film, opera and television — imposing her own vision.

The exhibit opened in Italy is the fruit of three years' toil-finding (but also of thorough library studies. The show at Palazzo Strozzi is structured according to her well-known aesthetic tendencies: Impressionism, Informal, Abstract, Surrealism, "Latin Memories", "Italian Perspectives", "Romanian Memories", "The World", "Ideals and Ideals", and "Greetings from Romania" — aiming at revealing Romanian cultural and historical horizons, in the field of fine arts, literature, music, and cinema. And, finally, as well as the inclusion of the two peoples in the



ARIETAS, the symbol of the Romanian people, as seen in the exhibition at Palazzo Strozzi, Florence.

Latin spiritual world. In fact such preoccupations are quite specific to Elena Fortu who has consistently tried to decipher

der exhibition organized in Bucharest which was entitled "Italian Landmarks". Consequently, her presence during the exhibition has turned into an emotional cultural experience inviting to an even deeper mutual knowledge. The beautiful illustrations left by this exhibit can be interpreted also by the gesture of overlooking Elena Fortu the Arietis Medal on behalf of the Romanian Academy of Tourism, Arts and Shows.

**POLAND.** Jazz Forum, the magazine of the International Jazz Federation publishes a profile of Romanian musician Bogdan Radu, signed by Virgil Mihailu. The same number (100, the last of 1987) includes an expanded dialogue between Virgil Mihailu and the Romanian pianist Vladimir Tătaru, as well as a presentation of the jazz festival in Cluj-Napoca. The article written by Nicolae Ionescu.







# AN ORIGINAL UNIVERSITY

In Romania, the problem of old age has only started to be raised more emphatically in the last few years. Not exactly because aged persons are faced with extreme hardships but primarily out of concern to diversify their sphere of interests, to enable them to get to know one another, to "add life to their years, rather than add years to their life."

An interesting and so far unique experiment on a national scale was undertaken in Roman municipally, Neamt county, where the first Agat Parsons University in Romania has been functioning at the Trade Unions House of Culture since October 1984. This original educational institution was created on the initiative of director Gheorghe Irimia, who secured the cooperation of the management of the Pensioners'



## RECOVERING HIS VISION AT THE AGE OF 102

The ophthalmological service of the Bacau County Hospital has earned a well-deserved fame to the last few decades, particularly thanks to the spectacular surgical interventions achieved by the team headed by Alexandru Radu, MD. The latter together with eye specialist Laura Corjoc and head ophthalmologist dr. Viorel Gheorghe, has made thousands of such operations and has written over 100 scientific works and papers published in Romania and abroad, or read at prestigious congresses and symposia in the field.

Equipped with state-of-the-art apparatus, some of them Romanian-made, such as the vitreoretinal, a complex surgical apparatus used in trauamatisms and internal haemorrhages of the eye, the pneumohydrostatic apparatus used in congenital glaucoma operations, the hydrostatic syringe for congenital aspiration and irrigation used in children's cataracts and traumatic cataracts etc., the ophthalmological service has been able to take patients who needed now, highly modern surgical techniques, especially for glaucoma of cataract-operated eyes, as well as operations with implants of artificial material meant to drain the liquids from the eye.

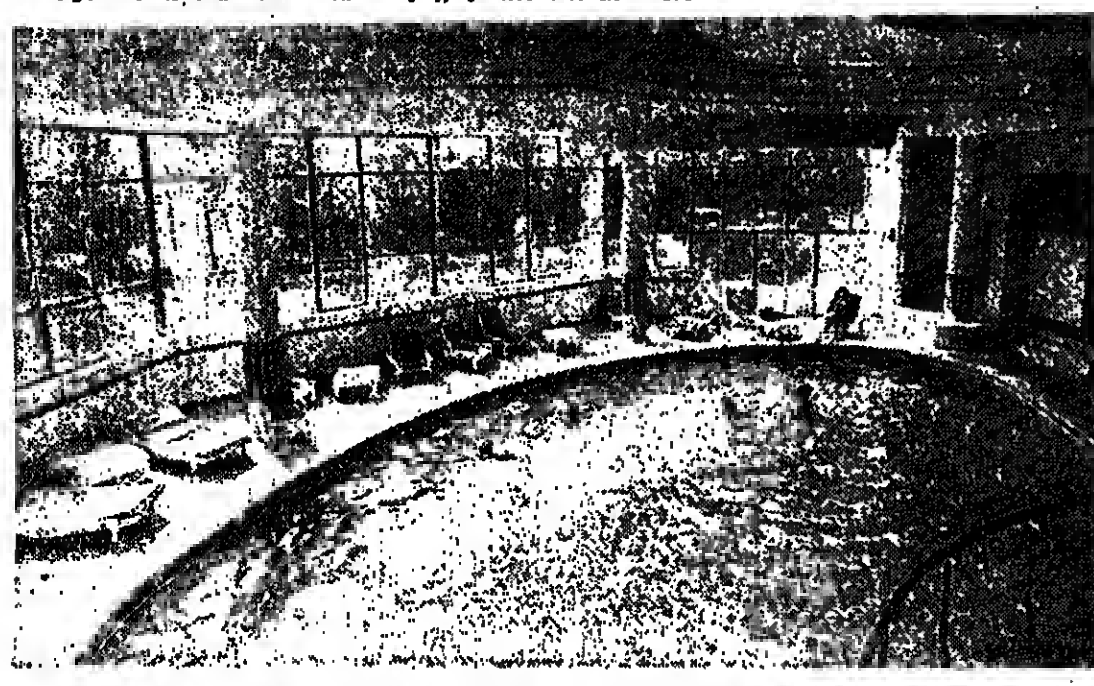
The latest and most spectacular intervention was performed on Bucharester Lazar Arta, born in April 1926. After being operated on for a cataract of his right eye, he completely lost his sight two years ago, but did not give up hope of finding a doctor who would operate on him and make him a normal person again. Unfortunately, no one assumed this responsibility for some time. "The only one who said 'Yes, it's possible' was doctor Iulian of whom we had heard some 17 years ago, we had also seen him on TV, but he seemed to be too far from where we lived. When we heard he was planning a room at our disposal, in which we could play together, we came immediately. I had to come too, as my husband is also hard of hearing and we understood each other by means of a hearing aid. Moreover, he is very kind and by accompanying him, I could see to it that he did not exert himself too much. Services here are very good and the surgeons, as you know, are hands of gold."

"The operation, as the distinguished specialist, doctor, required a special technique used for the first time in this country. Twenty-four hours after undergoing surgery, the patient was allowed to see his eye, which was quite unusual, and four days later — after long months of darkness — he started to see again. "I feel as if I had been born again," he exclaimed, patient told me, and could not repress his tears.

There have been many other elderly patients who have recovered their vision, among whom we can mention Agata Lupu (89 years old, from Iasi), Danaila Galitescu (85, Buzau) and Marian Spiridon Manolache (85, Bacau).

G.G. BUCUR  
Photo by RUGEN BACAU

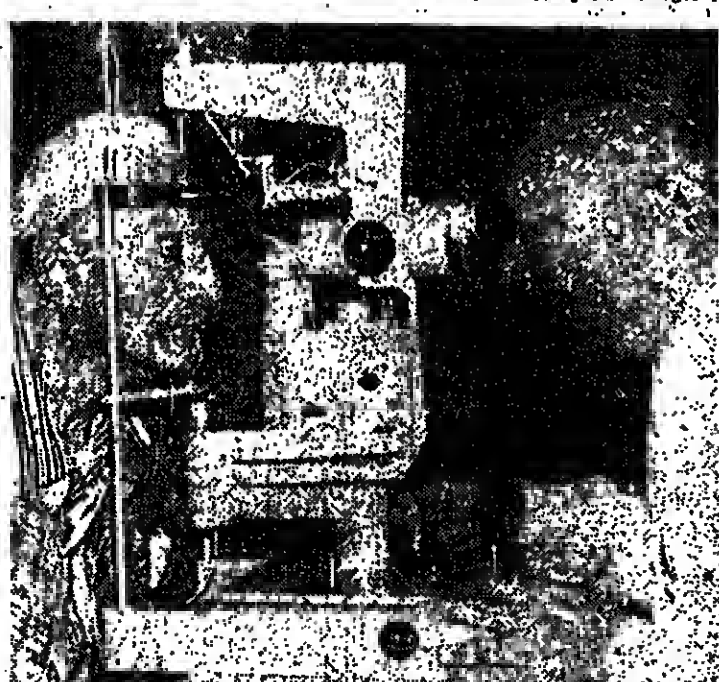
"The operation was successful," Dr. Radu is heard to say. "And so is the patient's condition. Which are the best results we can achieve. Did you see him? He was in the hospital for the first time."



Mutual Assistance House and the Old Guard Committee in that municipality, and the direct support of the National Institute of Gerontology and Geriatrics, and the last Institute of Medicine and Pharmacy. The university, which originally had three departments — humanities, gerontology-geriatrics and habilitation occupational therapy — and 21 special courses, spurred lively interest among the inhabitants of the town: 150 of them became its diligent students from its very inception, willing to assert an idea that seemed to them particularly valuable. The prestige it directly acquired was also due to the fact that a leading personality of our scientific life — academician professor Ana Aslan, DSc, was elected rector of the University, while other prominent figures of contemporary Romanian culture and science were appointed professors, deans and course leaders. Suffice it to mention that among the lecturers there were dr. Mircea Dumitru, rector of the National Institute of Gerontology and Geriatrics, dr. Vladimir Iuliu Guclo, associate professor Aradlie Foreck, professor dr. Gheorghe Zarnoff, professor Marian Coirau, DSc, dr. Ioan M. Copil, dr. Constantin Bogdan, professor dr. Victor Straton, associate professor Renc Duda, associate professor Jean Hurful. Adding to them were several specialists in the municipality, foremost among whom were professor and writer Gheorghe Irimia, engineer Emil Mihalovici, both professors, and Ecaterina Turcescu, chairman of the Municipal Red Cross Committee.

As a result of the growing number of applications, mostly due to the success enjoyed by all students, the faculty has been set up this year which has taken the number of courses to 21 and that of students to 200. Here is, in brief, the structure of this university: the Sociological Faculty (dean dr. Dumitru Horol), the Faculty of Humanities (dean dr. Victor Straton), senior researcher of the Art Museum of Romania, the Faculty of Gerontology and Geriatrics (dean dr. Constantin Bogdan, director of the Bucearest Hospital for Chronic Diseases and Geriatrics in Bucearest), and the Faculty of Health and Occupational Therapy (dean dr. Gheorghe Irimia).

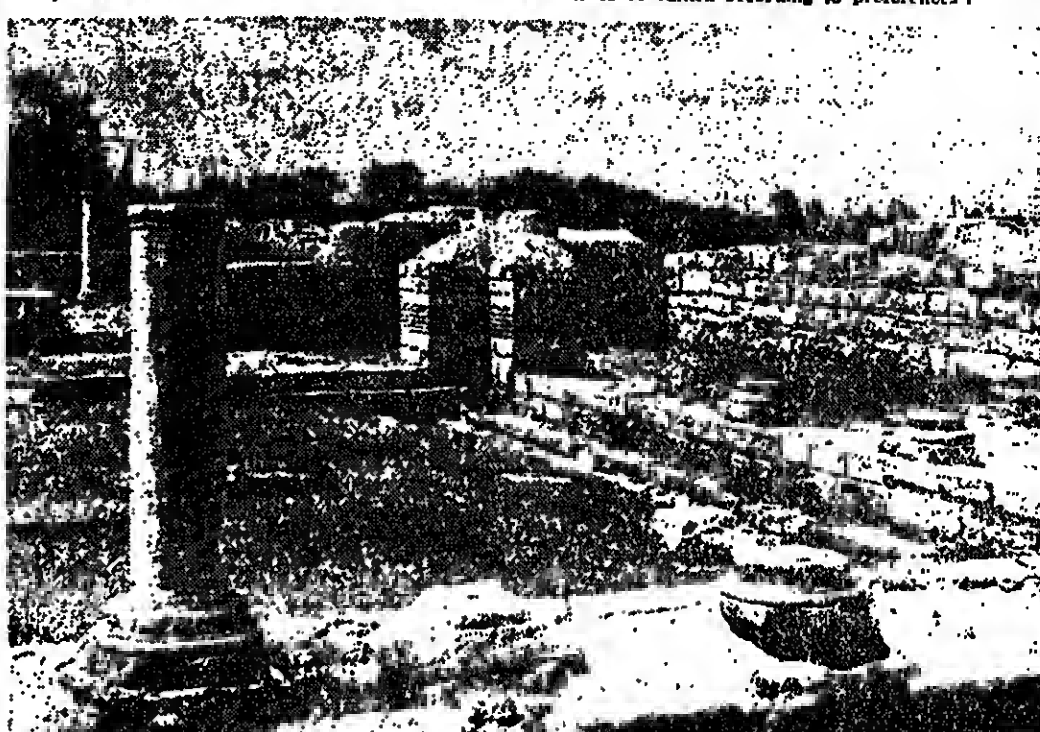
O. HANGANU



# AN IDEAL WAY OF KNOWING ROMANIA

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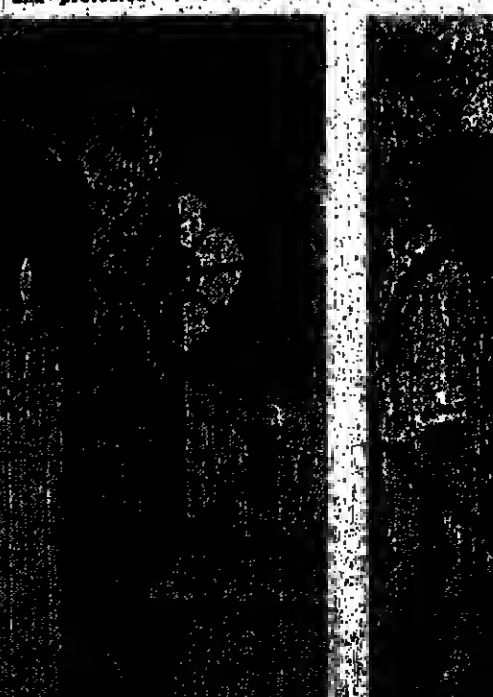
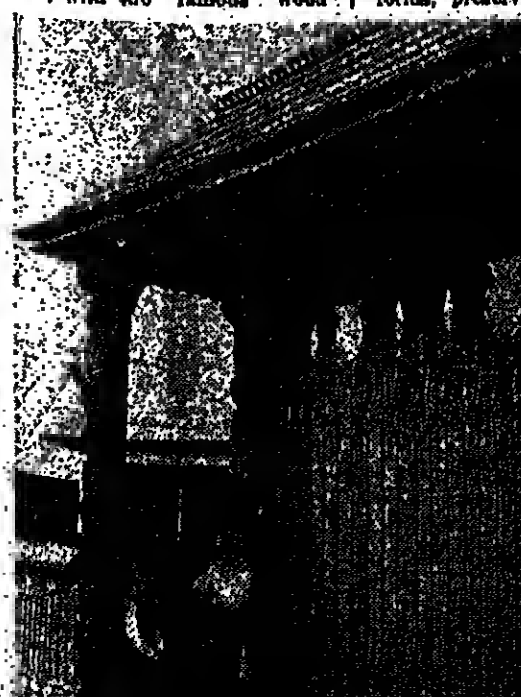


ROMANIA, A COUNTRY OF AUTHENTIC FOLKLORE. Journeys with folkloric themes include the visit of museum villages, an endless source for ethnographic researchers or a source of inspiration for folkloric artists, who will be able to direct their knowledge of folk creations to various houses built in traditional style in a great variety of forms and decorations, regardless of the material used, folk costumes, worn with pride and elegance, weaving, embroidery, glass work or ceramics paintings, Romanian folk music and dances, etc.

Monks should be made of several spots of maximum attraction: the Folk Art Exhibition at Ilorea (a locality in Vrancea county with the most diverse costumes in the country), the handicraft workshops in Morogues (a commune located 10 km from Radauti, Suceava county) a famous folk-art centre, where objects of black ceramics are produced, with an old tradition as well as a type of red ceramics, with polychrome enamel. Maramures area, with the famous wood

served sales, Sibiu town, with the neighbouring localities Rasnov, Sibiel and Salacea ethnographic museum and other architectural monuments), the Harghita area with the most beautiful folk costumes, the Subcarpathian Oltenia famous by its specific fabrics (blouses, skirts, carpets, etc.), the area of North Moldavia.

MILLENNARY HISTORY. Many trips organized have in view the knowledge of historical vestiges, of Greek and Roman architecture in Dobrogea (Histria) of the city of Callatis (Mangalia), of Trapezum (Tulcea) monument at Adamclisi, evoking Roman emperor Trajan's victory and the Dacians' defeat, and also vestiges of numerous Dacian and Roman cities in Transylvania, vovodas' palaces, Voloschia's old capital Tirgoviste and Curtea de Arges.



by the national patrimony. Among them mention should be made of those in Neamt Mountains and in the North of Moldavia, where there are several churches and monasteries like: Trei Ierari, Dragomirna, Agapia, with the famous paintings by Nicolae Grigorescu, Voronei, Mădăria, and Sucevita, decorated with exterior wall paintings of rare beauty, all belonging to the international patrimony protected by UNESCO.

VARIOUS TRIPS TO THE ROMANIAN BLACK SEA coast and to the fascinating universe of the Danube Delta, with its reed islands, channels bordered by a luxuriant vegetation, with a rare fauna protected by law, an area considered a birds' paradise.

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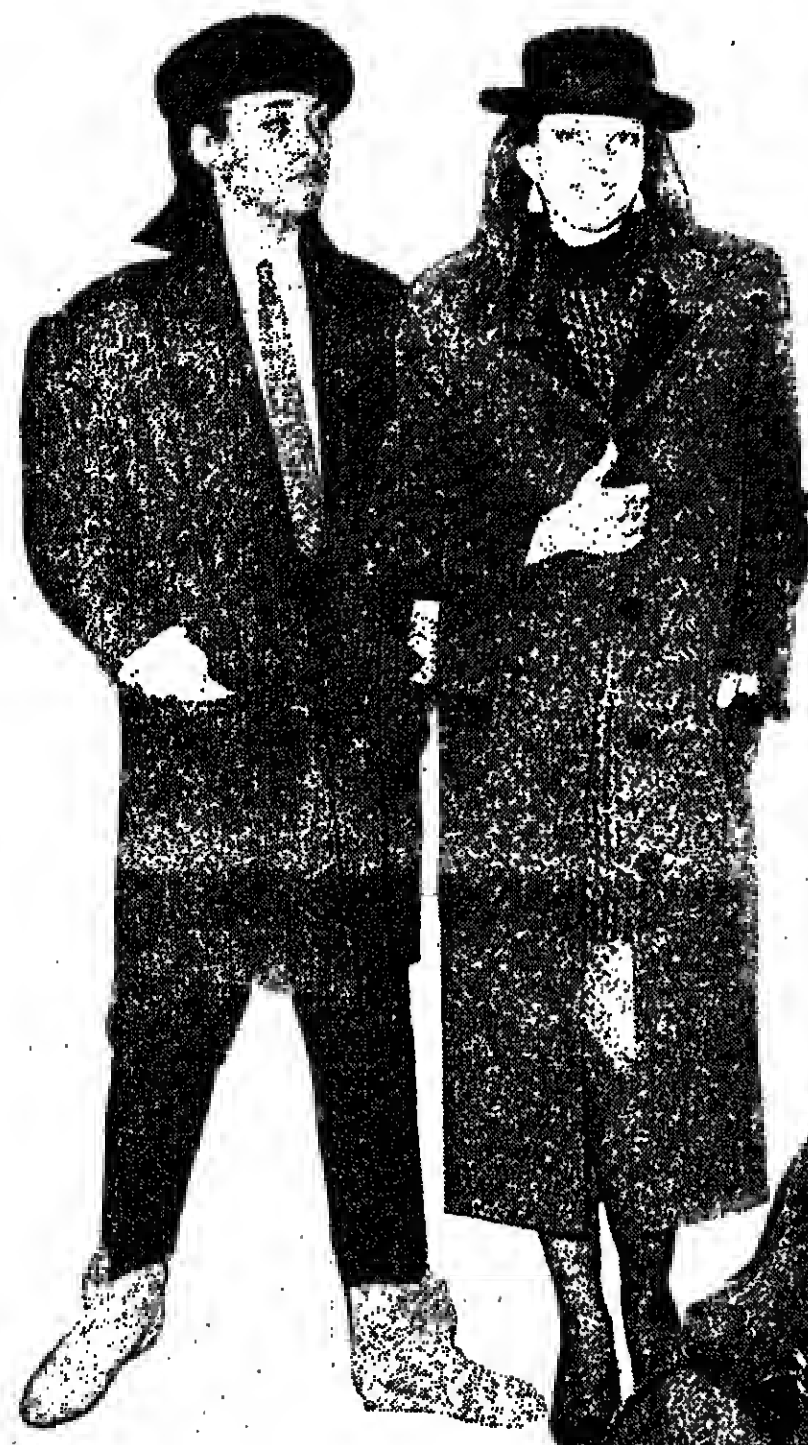
located in the Retezat (national park), Inerci and Pătra Craiului mountains.

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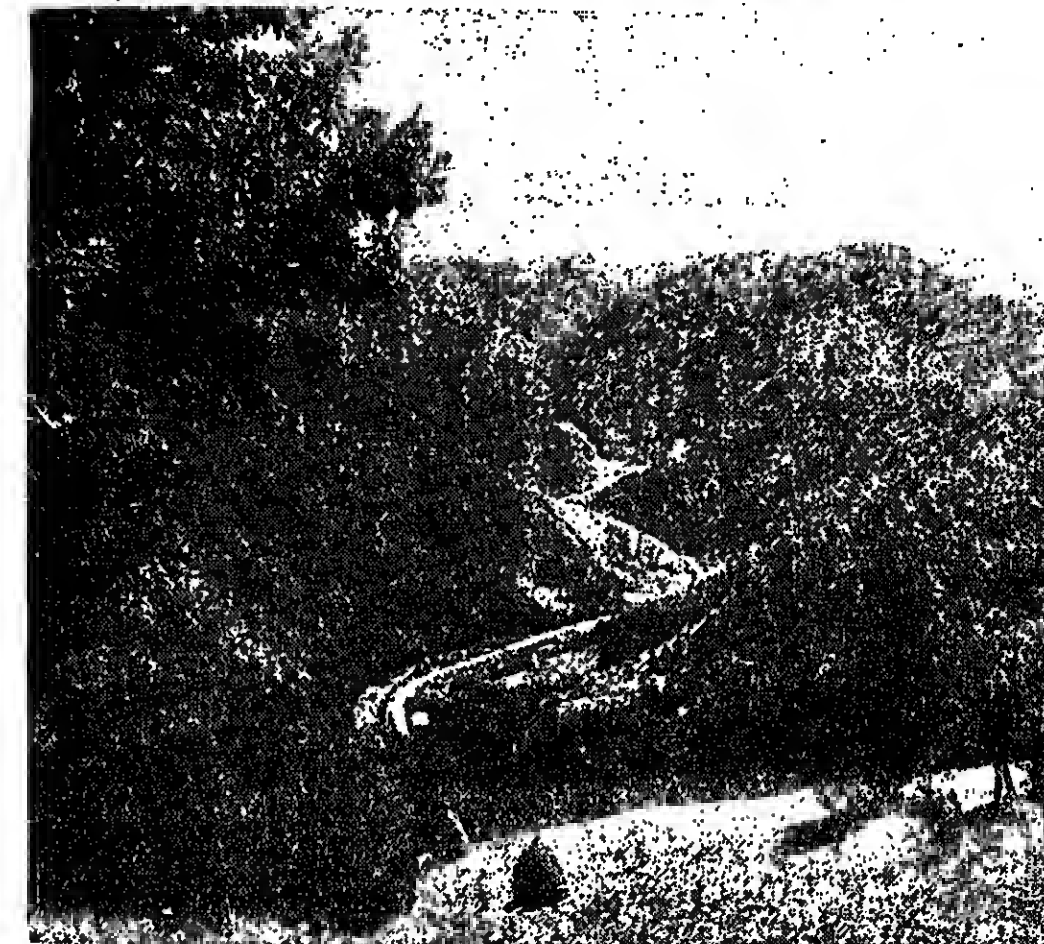
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